IRS Is Said to Probe '69 Nixon Tax Return

3/11/74 Post

NEW YORK, March 10 (AP) —President Nixon's 1969 income tax return is the subject of a criminal fraud investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Newsweek magazine reported today.

Quoting unnamed sources, the magazine said that "in recent weeks, IRS special intelligence agents who do only criminal investigations have interviewed Edward L. Morgan, a onetime White House aide; Arthur Blech, Mr. Nixon's personal accountant, and Frank DeMarco, the President's former tax lawyer.

"The key question," Newsweek said, "is whether a fraudulent deed to Mr. Nixon's vice presidential papers was drawn up in the spring of 1970 to make it appear that he had actually given the papers to the archives one year earlier—before congressional legislation outlawed deductions for such gifts."

The magazine said IRS spokesmen have refused to comment on th inquiry, and the White House says it has not been notified of a criminal investigaton of the President.

Presidential press secretary Ronald Ziegler is quoted as saying the problem "goes to the prepartion of the documents, not to any action of the President."

[The Washington Post could not confirm the Newsweek report.]